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State Income Taxes — And The Retiree

As a result of General Assembly action and the Governor signing Senate Bill 57, many Federal Civil Service and military retirees will have a state income tax INCREASE of as much as $172.50 for 1974 and future years. While the new law appropriately includes for the first time, industry retirees, it nevertheless, further compounds the inequity among various retired groups. The disparity ranges from TOTAL exemption of state income tax for state retirees and their surviving spouses to NO exemption for some retirees and their spouses. The disparity is further magnified in the case of state and some local police who retire before age 65 for they are given $150 per month tax free supplement until they receive Social Security. This is on top of their tax free retirement pay.

Such tax advantages and supplemental payments make up one of the best retirement plans in the country. The announced state provisions for its retirees reads as follows: "Most career employees receive from the Virginia Supplemental Retirement System and Social Security combined benefits equal to or better than pre-retirement take-home pay." With none of this being taxed by the state, it is indeed a very attractive arrangement. Certainly many other retirees, instead of paying increased taxes, would welcome an adjustment that would provide equitable treatment for all.

Lowest on the totem pole with respect to state income tax treatment, are the Retired Military Veterans. It is difficult to surmise why state elected officials placed the retired military veteran in second class citizen category. They too served our country faithfully and like the policeman, often in very hazardous and trying situations, yet they are treated less than equal.

NOr can one understand the logic underlying why the widow of an industry retiree is allowed only $1,000 exemption, while her neighbor, the widow of a state retiree, pays NO tax on her annuity. These and other discriminatory provisions of the law obviously need to be changed to better serve all retirees and tax payers in general.

It is reasonable to ask if the state could afford to exempt all retired pay of its citizens. The facts are unavailable. As far as we have been able to determine, the state has never calculated the cost of such a proposal. However, we are not advocating complete tax exemption of all retired pay, but a system of equitable treatment for all retirees.

The National Association for Uniformed Services has advised members of the General Assembly and the Executive Branch that we do not seek special treatment for Retired Military Veterans, **merely equal treatment**. We have urged them to enact legislation placing all retired citizens on an equitable basis irrespective of the source of their retired pay. The needs are similar for all and the struggle against inflation is particularly difficult for our senior citizens.

Present day wage earners too often dismiss this subject as not pertinent to them. We suggest they look around at the situation of the older members of their family and friends – and then remember in a few short years they too will be among the retired group faced with similar problems unless constructive changes are made now.

NAUS recommends all military and other retirees contact their state legislators before the General Assembly meets in January 1975, preferably on a person-to-person basis and request a commitment from them to change the law so that it will provide justice for all members of the retired community. Local organizations and employee unions can greatly assist in this effort as can the individual by joining an organization seeking to correct the situation.

If Retired Military Veterans or others desire additional information, the National Association for uniformed Services, 956 No. Monroe Street, Arlington, Va. will be pleased to provide it.

The Pastor Speaks

Edith Shaw Butler in a poem entitled "Your Christmas Gift" writes:

Stars and candles, sprigs of holly,
Santa Claus is fat and jolly.
Snowflakes, cherubim with wings
Christmas holds such lovely things.
Bells and reindeer, cones and pine,
How beautiful is each design.
Mistletoe, a Christmas dove
To wrap the gift for one you love.

Each of us seeks to find that perfect gift for the ones we love. We want them to have the very best of everything. In our minds our loved ones deserve even our greatest sacrifice. There is tremendous joy in giving to those whom we love.

However, it is easy to give to those we love, but the real joy of Christmas is in giving to those who are unlovable. It takes a God-like love to give unselfishly to those who do not love us in return. That's the challenge of this season. A tremendous blessing awaits the one who seeks to give unselfishly to those in need of our love and concern.

God almost 2,000 years ago gave His love gift to all mankind in Jesus Christ. John 3:16 says, *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* We were unlovable and rebellious creatures, but as Romans 5:8 says, *"God commendeth His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us."* Let us never forget that unmerited love and sacrificial giving is the true meaning of Christmas. Praise be unto God for the gift of His Son.

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The Sunday School Lesson

HERBERT C. BRADSHAW
P. O. Box 1833
Durham, N.C., 27702

Comment on the International Sunday School lesson for Sunday, December 22, 1974. Topic: Interpreting the Christ Event
Scripture: Matthew 1:1-2:6; Luke 3:23-38; Galatians 3:23-26

Now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. Gal. 3:25-26.

In a remarkable sense, the Incarnation of the Son of God in Jesus Christ is the neck in the hourglass of all history. Toward it the great streams of history ran. The religious contribution to civilization by Israel, the cultural contribution of Greece, the political contribution of Rome came to confluence in the Incarnation. All were part of the preparation of the world for the coming of the Savior. The religious preparation through Israel is summarized in Mattew 1:1: "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham."

From the Incarnation the streams of history diverge as the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ goes into all the world to bless mankind and to enrich culture and civilization. To symbolize this, much of the world dates time from the Incarnation, our years being number and identified "anno Domini," "in the year of the Lord," and abbreviated A.D.

The Scriptural background of this week's International Sunday School lesson incorporates the two genealogies of Jesus given in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. These link Jesus, as the Messiah, with Israel's history, with special emphasis on His descent from David, Israel's greatest king and personification of the nation's future greatness, and Abraham, the ancestor of Israel who by his own demonstration of faith became father of the faithful of every race.

Because the genealogies differ so substantially, they present problems. Some scholars say bluntly that they cannot be reconciled. Several theories for reconciling them have been proposed. One, widely held since the Reformation and described by the New Testament scholar, A. T. Robertson, as the "most plausible solution," holds that the genealogy given in Matthew is that of Joseph, the legal father of Jesus, the genealogy in Luke that of Mary, with her husband's name substituted for hers.

The earliest known attempt at reconciliation, made by Julius Africanus in the third century, A.D., holds that both are Joseph's genealogies. He thought that Jacob and Heli were stepbrothers, and that under the rules of of Levirate marriage (under which a man married his childless brother's widow and raise children for his brother) Jacob married the widow of Heli and was the actual father of Joseph. Joseph could claim descent through both Jacob and Heli. A variant of this theory, proposed by Lord Arthur Hervey, thinks Matthew's genealogy gives Joseph's legal descent to show his valid claim to the throne of Israel. In this theory, the line of kings ended with Jeconiah and claim to the throne passed to another line of descent from David in Shealtiel.

In the Roman world an adopted son shared as fully the heritage of his foster father as if he were actually of the blood. Thus Jesus, as Josph's legal son, carried on Joseph's heritage.

It was important to the Jews to show Jesus' descent from David, for according to the prophecies the Messiah would be of David's line, the successor to David's throne. To claim Messiahship for Jesus required showing that His ancestry went back to David and that he could by right claim in the throne.

Interpreting the Christ event, as our topic terms the Incornation, involve more than identifying Jesus as the Messiah. It must also show Him as Savior, carrying out the purpose for which Messiah came. In His, the ultimate, revelation of God to men, Jesus Christ brings people into a new relationship with God Through His atonement, He makes it possible for men and women to become again members of the family and household of God, as they were created to be. For this purpose He had come into the world, not as a mighty prince distributing largess to his subjects, but as a child. He shared the experience of birth all humans share, grew from infancy to manhood that He might share our humanity and know what it is to be man.

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Letters To Santa

Dear Santa:
I want a Big Jim Camper, a big Fort Cheyenne Play Set, Big Dukes, Big Jim.
Thank You Santa,
Kenneth D. Mayberry
Age 8

Dear Santa:
I want a Baby Alive, A Barbie Camper, a baby carriage, a stocking of candy, a Barbie Doll Bus.
Thank you Santa,
Wendy Lynn Mayberry
Age 7

Dear Santa Claus,
My Mommy is writing this for me, because I'm only (19 months old). For Christmas I would like a piano and stool, a horse to ride, a Raggedy Ann Doll, a little train, and anything else you could bring me!
Merry Christmas, Santa Claus!
Tracy Renee Mayberry

Dear Santa,
I have been a good little girl. I want a table and chairs and a Barbie Town House and a watch and a tape recorder.
I am 9 years old.
Tina Hamlett

Dear Santa:
I have been a good little boy. I want a patriot chopper and a watch and a bulldozer.
I am 5 years old.
Michael Hamlett

Dear Santa,
I want a little gun at Penny's, a Big Wheel, a guitar and a Evel Knievel stunt set. My mother says I've been a good boy.
Chucky Rogers, age 5.
P.S. I'm only in kindergarden but my sister wrote it and I told her what to write and she even wrote this.

Dear Santa,
I have been good, too. Please bring me a 10-speed bike, watch and some little cars and trucks.
Thank you,
Michael Martin

Dear Santa,
I have been good. Would you please bring me a 10-speed bike, guitar and little cars and trucks.
Thank
A. C.

Dear Santa,
I'm always a good boy. I would appreciate the Tanks bulldozer, bulldozer-loader, dump and some goodies in my stocking.
There will also be a gift under the tree for you.
Edward G.

Dear Santa
I want a surprising Barbie swimming pool, little spanish doll collection. My mother I've been a good boy.
Monopoly game.
Lisa R.
Rt. 4, Appomattox, Virginia 24522
P.S. I wrote all this I don't want you to know where I live.

Dear Santa Claus,
I am four years old. I tired to be a good boy. I have helped my Daddy chop wood at the farm. I want a camper set, a Sh board and a big wheel, gun and holster stocking goodies.
Love, Denn

Dear Santa Claus,
I am two years old. little girl. Would you bring me a doll th high chair, iron a board and a big wheel you something to eat
Love, Denn

Dear Santa Claus,
I have been good This is what I would (flag), Whodunit (Beach Bus, "Big wallet, clothes, jewe er pocketbook, Clothes (pilot suit thing else.
Love, Laurie Ly
P.S. The ones beside them I want

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Share the moment

Holidays mean fun and excitement, lots of good food, and happy moments with friends and family. There's nothing quite like the joy a holiday brings. It's a good time to remember the people you love, who live far away. A long distance call can say "We wish you were with us."

Few things in life can give so much pleasure for so little.

For a few minutes on this holiday, enjoy the warmth and pleasure of being close once again to the people from whom you're far away. Call long distance and share the moment.

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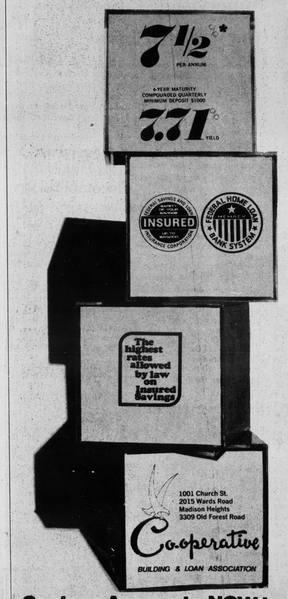

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Savings Accounts NOW insured up to $40,000

We're Packed with Holiday Cheer!

We Close Christmas Eve at 6 P. M.

SMOKED HAMS Whole
Gill's - 16 - 18 Lb. Avg. lb. **89¢**

Country Style Hams lb. **$1.29**
Bone or Porterhouse Steaks lb. **$1.59**
Boneless Top Round Steak lb. **$1.69**

Buffett Suppers 2 LBS. **$1.29**
FREEZER QUEEN—Turkey & Gravy, Salisbury Steak Meat Loaf, Man-Size Beef Patties

Pecrust Shells PET RITZ – 2 PER PKG. **89¢**
Egg Nog Qt. **89¢** ½ Gal. **$1.69**

PARK OR eve CIGARETTES
$2.49 REGULARS
$2.59 100's

Gill's Coffee
Hotel Special-Coffee & Chicory

$1.09 1 LB. BAG

Christmas Nuts
Mixed Nuts - 1 lb. bag 81¢
English Walnut - 1 Lb. Pkg. 75¢
Brazil Nuts - 1 Lb. Pkg. 83¢

Cranberry Sauce 3 Cans $1
Whole Kernel—17 Oz.
Yellow Corn
Whole Kernel—15 Oz. Can
Sweet Peas

Marshmallow Creme 49¢
Carnation Canned Evaporated Milk 29¢
Cinderella Raisins 15 OZ. BOX 69¢

Fox Candy Candy Assortment for the Loved One in Your Heart

Coupon — PRICE APPLIES ONLY WITH THIS COUPON
Pillsbury's BEST FLOUR
Regular & Self Rising
89¢ 5 LB. BAG
Good only at: WILBUN'S SUPER MARKET
Coupon expires DEC. 21, 1974

Coconut
Baker's - Angel Flake
14 Oz. Pkg. 99¢

Royal Gelatins
3 Oz. Box all flavors
2 Boxes 39¢

Cella's—Chocolate Covered Cherries – 8 Oz. Box 99¢
Curtiss Cut Rock 11 Oz. Pkg. – 69¢
Curtiss Old Fashion Mix 11 Oz. Pkg. – 69¢
Lifesavers Sweet Story Book 10 Per Pkg. – 99¢
Christmas Candy Canes 10 Pack – 39¢

Bread
Favorite - 20 Oz.
Thin Sliced or Old Fashion
3 for $1

Oysters
Standard - 12 Oz. Cup $1.75
Select - 12 Oz. Cup $1.85

Sirloin Steaks

$1.49 lb.

Ice Cream
Autocrat
ALL FLAVORS
½ GAL. 89¢

PEPPERIDGE FARM
Layer Cake
VANILLA LAYER, COCONUT LAYER
GOLDEN LAYER, DEVIL'S FOOD
CHOCOLATE FUDGE, GERMAN CHOC.
17 OZ. $1.19

Coca-Cola
32 OZ. RETURNABLE BOTTLE
4 QT. BOTTLES $1.19

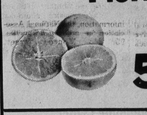
Turkeys Dine Rite or Roast Rite 18 Lbs. and up

lb. 45¢

10-16 Lb. Gold Crest TURKEYS lb. 59¢
10 - 16 lbs. Butterball TURKEYS lb. 69¢
Herb Seasoning & Cornbread Pepperidge Stuffing - 8 Oz. Bag 39¢

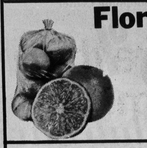
Garden Fresh Produce:

Florida Grapefruit



5 lb. bag 89¢

Florida Oranges



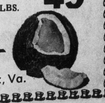
5 Lb. Bag 79¢

Red Grapes 3 Lbs. 99¢
Celery Large Stalk 2 For 49¢
FRESH Cranberries 2 1 LB. BOXES 89¢
Apples RED DELICIOUS – 3 LB. BAG 79¢

EX-NICE Tomatoes

lb. 39¢

"NEW" White Potatoes 10 LB. BAG 89¢
Yellow Onions 3 LB. BAG 49¢
Sweet Potatoes 2 LBS. 49¢
Coconut EACH 49¢



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